

CHILDREN'S AIR QUALITY AGENDA

Basic Tenets

1. *To expand upon the progress achieved under the AQMD Governing Board's Environmental Justice initiatives, it is an appropriate "next step" to focus on ways to mitigate disproportionate impacts of poor air quality on children.*
2. *Air quality programs should protect the health assets of all District residents through prudent stewardship of our most vulnerable and most valuable community resource: our children.*
3. *While scientists continue to build the body of knowledge about air pollution and how to sensibly control it, government should help parents, educators and caregivers make informed choices in order to reduce health risks to the children under their care.*
4. *Because children's respiratory health directly affects their school attendance and capacity for learning, air quality awareness is an important complement to our region's education goals.*

Action Initiatives

1. Hold an Educators Conference for school administrators, teachers, and coaches on air pollution and children's health. Invite medical experts to summarize the state-of-knowledge on the effects of air pollution on children's and young adults' health. Discuss appropriate and feasible steps schools can take to assess and minimize exposure, and curriculum & resources available to better educate students and teachers about air pollution.
2. Seek medical association co-sponsorship for a Pediatricians Conference on air quality to provide local-area doctors with the latest information on air quality and children's health.
3. Provide enhanced assistance to school districts regarding air quality assessment (including air toxics) and site remediation for new and existing sites, including monitoring and laboratory analysis of air samples.
4. Expand Green Carpet permit-expediting service to include school sites (elementary, junior high and high school) and implement programs to expedite the conversion of school buses to clean fuels.
5. Seek federal and state funding for additional lung and asthma testing of children (such as that successfully conducted by university-based mobile clinics), through a mobile unit traveling to schools and sports league sites.
6. Adopt a school program where each AQMD manager, program supervisor, engineer, inspector, and air quality specialist visits one school a year to make a presentation to a class or assembly on air quality. Executive Officer would ensure reasonable distribution of staff among counties, subregions (e.g., Coachella Valley), and communities. Intended to be a multiyear program.
7. Help train future air quality scientists by establishing a student intern program where each Board member designates two high school or college students for summer internship at AQMD, to receive hands-on training in air chemistry, meteorology, engineering, public administration, or other field.
8. Partner in a Cooperative Education program about air quality and children's & young adults' health, to be carried out at local museums throughout the District.
9. Expand AQMD's web page to provide asthma and respiratory information as related to air quality for children and others, also seeking the assistance of medical experts from UCLA, USC, Rancho Los Amigos, Loma Linda, and other health centers.
10. Establish a Children's Air Quality Advisory Board to meet quarterly to review status on initiative implementation and to make future recommendations to the Governing Board.

